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6. 30M-1-39

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S.1. Special branch

REPORT

Date. July 14, 1939.

Subject: Reports carried by the local press to the effect that German soldiers have landed in Shanghai.

Made by D.S. Pitts

Forwarded by

C. G. G. 89

The reports appearing in the attached articles in the "North China Daily News" and "Journal de Shanghai" of July 11, 1939, emanated from the same source, the person supplying the information being one Heinrich HANS, an Aryan German political refugee who holds Aliens Identification Certificate No. N.L. 1704 issued at the Hague on March 23, 1939.

HANS has been questioned by this office and, in brief, he states the following :-

"During the morning of Tuesday, July 4, 1939 he was proceeding along North Szechuen Road near Dixwell Road, when he observed a column of some 250 foreign soldiers garbed in the green-khaki uniform of Japanese Marines, marching in the direction of the Japanese Naval barracks in Kiangwan Road.

"Two soldiers to the rear of the column were forced to lag behind to attend to a mobile machine-gun they were pulling as they were experiencing certain difficulties with it.

"During the time they were attending to it - not more than 30 seconds - HANS avers he asked them where they were from. They stated they were German volunteers, having just arrived on a Japanese freighter from Spain where they had fought in the Spanish Civil War with the Condor

Comm. of Police
S.1.
Informant

Thos Robertson

D.S. (Sp. B.)

H. I. V.
Highly improbable?
Hans



S.1.
J.B.

16/7

C. G. G. 89

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Station,

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Division. They conversed with HANS in German."

Apart from the foregoing HANS had no further conversation with the men. He is, however, quite certain they were German soldiers.

As against this statement which must be accepted with the usual reserve, independent enquiries do not confirm his story.

Police officers attached to Dixwell Road and Hongkew Stations have not observed any foreign troops in their districts recently, while reliable foreigners who have occasion to move to and fro in the area concerned, have also failed to notice these soldiers. In addition, German official and semi-official circles deny having any knowledge relating to the arrival of these men.

While it is true that information was received by this office some time ago to the effect that German and Italian troops were likely to proceed to China to assist the Japanese Military forces, it seems logical to assume that had these German troops sailed in a freighter of any kind through the Suez Canal, such a journey would have been the subject of a world-wide press report, but no such story has yet been seen.

DR.
14/7

J. A. Piers.
D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

JUL 1 1 1939

***German Troops in
Shanghai?***

It was reported in Shanghai yesterday that a number of German soldiers, dressed in the uniform of the Japanese Naval Landing Party, were seen marching recently on North Szechuen Road and that several had been seen outside the Landing Party Headquarters. No confirmation of this report could be obtained, however. Other reports had it that they were veterans of the Spanish war and had arrived in a Japanese freighter.

D. S. Pills
C. 11/4

S/R
11/7

July 12, 1939.

Morning Translation.

JOURNAL DE SHANGHAI dated July 11:

"RUMOUR IS CURRENT THAT A NUMBER OF GERMAN ANTI-
AIRCRAFT EXPERTS HAVE ARRIVED ON A JAPANESE
FREIGHTER"

"Japanese Authorities Deny Report"

A rumour is current in Shanghai that a number of anti-aircraft experts arrived recently in Shanghai on a Japanese freighter.

Interrogated regarding the matter, the Japanese authorities denied the report which they attributed to official Soviet propaganda.

It is said, however, (and names of witnesses are given) that a batch of 250 German soldiers under the command of a German officer and accompanied by a Japanese officer, were seen at about 10.30 a.m. last Tuesday on North Szechuen Road. The men wore Khaki uniforms out like those worn by Japanese marines and carried rifles and bayonets. They were pulling along some German materials for field telephones.

Two of these men were questioned by an Austrian-Aryan refugee and declared that they had just arrived from Germany on board a Japanese freighter which had been converted into a transport. These men also said that they had seen service in Spain before coming out to China and that they belonged to the "S.S.," the Fuehrer's famous black guard. They were experts of air defence.

Other members of the same group were noticed on Thursday. The group is being accommodated in the barracks of the Naval Landing Party near Hongkew Park.

The eye-witnesses, who are very positive, declare that the men were not White Russian Volunteers recruited by the Japanese authorities; they are positive that these men are Germans.

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Chinese-American Daily News, Eastern Times:

ITALIAN AND GERMAN VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT FOR JAPAN

FILE According to information from Hongkew, the Japanese military authorities, owing to their inadequate strength in Central and South China, have consented to allow the German and Italian volunteers, who had participated in the Spanish Civil War, to come to China to take part in the hostilities. The first batch of 200 Italian volunteers arrived in Shanghai and landed at Yangtszepoo at the beginning of this month. It is said that these volunteers belong to various regiments and lack discipline. They will not have a long stay in Shanghai and will soon leave for the South China front to see active service there.

It is learned that German volunteers will also come to China to assist Japan.

JUL 12 1939

GERMAN BLUEJACKET REPORT DENIED

Spokesman States That Naval Circles Had Laugh At Report

A local report that 250 Germans in Japanese Naval Landing Party uniforms were seen marching in Hongkew provided "a good laugh" among Japanese naval circles, a naval spokesman said yesterday.

Referring to a report that the Germans were "archie" experts, the spokesman declared that the Japanese Navy did not require the services of any "archie" experts, being "confident that it can handle its 'archies' as well as any nation"

The spokesman said the Landing Party headquarters was packed at present and could not accommodate 250 Germans.

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NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

JUL 6 1939

**Italians Recruited
By Japanese**

Rome, July 5.
Some Italian Legionaries from Spain are being recruited by the Japanese to assist them in the war against the Chinese, according to reliable sources here. A number of Italian Legionaries are said to have already sailed from Naples.—
Reuter.

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MAY 23 1939

White' Foreign Legion Wishes To Aid Japan

Knight's Son Announces Plan To Raise Army Of Six Regiments

(United Press)

MADRID, May 27.—Plans to raise six regiments of 5,000 experienced fighters and the formation of a "White Foreign Legion" to fight for Japan against the "red perils of Communism" in the Far East were outlined today by Lieutenant Peter Kemp, officer of the Spanish Foreign legion and 23-year-old son of the late Sir Norman Kemp, Chief Justice of Bombay.

The regiments would be composed of veterans of the Spanish war and would be under the command of an American, an officer from Manila, a former Colonel in the Russian Army and Lieut. Kemp.

Plans for the formation of the "White Foreign Legion" to fight for Japan have already been discussed with the Japanese Embassy at San Sebastian, Lieut. Kemp told the United Press.

James Walton, 45-year-old New York sergeant of the Navarree forces, Lieutenant Lorenzo Mata, 30-year-old officer of the Spanish Foreign Legion, Prince Alexis Achavarri, colonel in the Imperial Russian Army, and Lieut. Kemp are forming the "White Foreign Legion" of Spanish civil war veterans to battle for Japan.

Lieut. Kemp, who has been wounded four times and decorated twice for bravery in Spain, outlined the plans of the group of adventurers.

"Plans have been completed already," he said, "and discussed with the Japanese Embassy at San Sebastian. I am confident we can raise six regiments of 5,000 men immediately and all of them experienced fighters.

"It is my idea that besides being a crack spearhead for the Japanese, we also will symbolize white soldiers helping a yellow people to combat the Red perils.

"This Foreign Legion aims to help wipe out Communism in the Far East."

JOHN H. H. H.
S. B. 13776
No. 9. 9. 11.
Date

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P. A. D. C. (Sp. Br.)
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